



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Shen *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/845,153

Filed: May 1, 2001

For: **Methods and Compositions for
Lipidization of Hydrophilic
Molecules**

Confirmation No.: 4085

Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: Desai, Anand U.

Atty. Docket: 1696.0020008/RWE/RAS

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated October 20, 2004, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group III, represented by claims 9-11, drawn to a method for prolonging blood and tissue retention of a sulfhydryl-containing compound, classified in class 435, subclass 9.34. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully assert that there would be no serious burden on the Examiner to examine the claims of Groups II and III together as the methods are very closely related and a search for art related to one would necessarily identify art related to the other.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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